

This is an official

DHEC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network
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Recommendations for Hepatitis A Vaccination

CDC has provided Interim Immunization Recommendations for Emergency Responders, Individuals Displaced by Hurricane Katrina, and Relief Workers available on the CDC website at: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/responderimmun.asp>

On September 05, 2005 DHEC sent a Health Advisory distributing the CDC Interim Immunization Recommendations. This Health Advisory is available at: <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/han/notifications.htm>.

There continue to be requests for clarification of the indications for Hepatitis A vaccination among various groups responding to, or affected by the disaster. There has been no change in the recommendations provided. There is no indication for Hepatitis A vaccine for Emergency Responders, relief workers or evacuees who are not living in crowded conditions. This DHEC Health Advisory is intended to clarify the recommendations and provide the rationale behind the decisions. Healthcare facilities should provide this information to any of their staff that may be part of the hurricane relief efforts (e.g. via volunteer, Medical Reserve Corps, etc.).

Indications for Hepatitis A vaccine for persons responding to the disaster

Hepatitis A vaccine is not indicated for Emergency Responders or relief workers. No transmission from contaminated water has been identified in the U.S. since the 1980's and no documented Hepatitis A outbreaks have occurred following other hurricanes or floods in the United States. Hepatitis A rates in the United States are generally low. The Gulf Region has had few hepatitis A cases in recent years, with less than 10 in the past 3 months reported from the New Orleans area. Thus, even though the water and sewage systems are damaged in many areas along the Gulf Coast, the risk of a hepatitis A epidemic is extremely low due to response workers not living in the shelter conditions. In addition, the risk of Hepatitis A infection in responders is extremely low based on the low occurrence of disease in the area and the circumstances of exposure.

Emergency Responders and relief workers returning from the impacted area

These response workers returning from the impacted areas should be vaccinated according to the adult immunization schedule. Hepatitis A vaccine is **not** indicated. Although response workers may have had extensive contact with flood-waters, the Hepatitis A virus disease burden in the population was low prior to the disaster.

Indications for Hepatitis A vaccine for evacuees

CDC recommends Hepatitis A vaccine for people **residing in the impacted areas who had to live under very crowded living conditions for a prolonged period of time**. These individuals may be at increased risk of Hepatitis A exposure due to the crowded living conditions. Individuals evacuated to South Carolina will not be living under the crowded living conditions similar to those experienced in the impacted regions. Hepatitis A vaccine may be indicated for evacuees sheltered in South Carolina who resided in crowded conditions for a prolonged period of time.

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of outbreaks/clusters of cases of Hepatitis A is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Public Health Offices

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology/Disease Report Office in the appropriate county listed below.

Region 1

(Anderson, Oconee)

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 231-1966
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-298-4442

(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)

PO Box 3227
1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

(Greenville, Pickens)

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or
1-800-993-1186

Region 3

(Chester, Lancaster, York)

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-867-3886 or
1-(888)-739-0748

(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

Region 4

(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 773-6366
Nights / Weekends: 1-(877)-831-4647

(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 5 (cont.)

(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 536-9118
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Region 6

(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)

2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: 843-746-3806
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)

1235 Lady's Island Drive
Port Royal, SC 29935
Phone: (843) 525-7603
Fax: (843) 525-7621
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

Bureau of Disease Control

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division
1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.